

§ 4.78

[53 FR 30262, Aug. 11, 1988]

§ 4.78 Computing aggravation.

In determining the effect of aggravation of visual disability, even though the visual impairment of only one eye is service connected, evaluate the vision of both eyes, before and after suffering the aggravation, and subtract the former evaluation from the latter except when the bilateral vision amounts to total disability. In the event of subsequent increase in the disability of either eye, due to intercurrent disease or injury not associated with the service, the condition of the eyes before suffering the subsequent increase will be taken as the basis of compensation subject to the provisions of § 3.383(a) of this chapter.

[29 FR 6718, May 22, 1964, as amended at 43 FR 45354, Oct. 2, 1978]

§ 4.79 Loss of use of one eye, having only light perception.

Loss of use or blindness of one eye, having only light perception, will be held to exist when there is inability to recognize test letters at 1 foot (.30m.) and when further examination of the eyes reveals that perception of objects, hand movements or counting fingers cannot be accomplished at 3 feet (.91m.), lesser extents of visions, particularly perception of objects, hand movements, or counting fingers at distances less than 3 feet (.91 m.), being considered of negligible utility. With visual acuity 5/200 (1.5/60) or less or the visual field reduced to 5° concentric contraction, in either event in both eyes, the question of entitlement on account of regular aid and attendance will be determined on the facts in the individual case.

[43 FR 45354, Oct. 2, 1978]

§ 4.80 Rating of one eye.

Combined ratings for disabilities of the same eye should not exceed the amount for total loss of vision of that eye unless there is an enucleation or a serious cosmetic defect added to the total loss of vision.

38 CFR Ch. I (7-1-00 Edition)

§§ 4.81-4.82 [Reserved]

§ 4.83 Ratings at scheduled steps and distances.

In applying the ratings for impairment of visual acuity, a person not having the ability to read at any one of the scheduled steps or distances, but reading at the next scheduled step or distance, is to be rated as reading at this latter step or distance. That is, a person who can read at 20/100 (6/30) but who cannot at 20/70 (6/21), should be rated as seeing at 20/100 (6/30).

[41 FR 34257, Aug. 13, 1976, as amended at 43 FR 45354, Oct. 2, 1978]

§ 4.83a Impairment of central visual acuity.

The percentage evaluation will be found from table V by intersecting the horizontal row appropriate for the Snellen index for one eye and the vertical column appropriate to the Snellen index of the other eye. For example, if one eye has a Snellen index of 5/200 (1.5/60) and the other eye has a Snellen index of 20/70 (6/21), the percentage evaluation is found in the third horizontal row from the bottom and the fourth vertical column from the left. The evaluation is 50 percent and the diagnostic code 6073.

[41 FR 11297, Mar. 18, 1976, as amended at 43 FR 45354, Oct. 2, 1978]

§ 4.84 Differences between distant and near visual acuity.

Where there is a substantial difference between the near and distant corrected vision, the case should be referred to the Director, Compensation and Pension Service.

[40 FR 42537, Sept. 15, 1975]

§ 4.84a Schedule of ratings—eye.

DISEASES OF THE EYE		Rating
6000	Uveitis	
6001	Keratitis	
6002	Scleritis	
6003	Iritis	
6004	Cyclitis	
6005	Choroiditis	
6006	Retinitis	
6007	Hemorrhage, intra-ocular, recent	

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DISEASES OF THE EYE—Continued

	Rating
6008 Retina, detachment of	
6009 Eye, injury of, unhealed: The above disabilities, in chronic form, are to be rated from 10 percent to 100 percent for impairment of visual acuity or field loss, pain, rest-requirements, or episodic incapacity, combining an additional rating of 10 percent during continuance of active pathology. Minimum rating during active pathology	10
6010 Eye, tuberculosis of, active or inactive: Active	100
Inactive: See §§ 4.88b and 4.89.	
6011 Retina, localized scars, atrophy, or irregularities of, centrally located, with irregular, duplicated enlarged or diminished image: Unilateral or bilateral	10
6012 Glaucoma, congestive or inflammatory: Frequent attacks of considerable duration; during continuance of actual total disability	100
Or, rate as iritis, diagnostic Code 6003.	
6013 Glaucoma, simple, primary, noncongestive: Rate on impairment of visual acuity or field loss. Minimum rating	10
6014 New growths, malignant (eyeball only): Pending completion of operation or other indicated treatment	100
Healed; rate on residuals.	
6015 New growths, benign (eyeball and adnexa, other than superficial) Rate on impaired vision, minimum	10
Healed; rate on residuals.	
6016 Nystagmus, central	10
6017 Conjunctivitis, trachomatous, chronic: Active; rate for impairment of visual acuity; minimum rating while there is active pathology	30
Healed; rate on residuals, if no residuals	0
6018 Conjunctivitis, other, chronic: Active, with objective symptoms	10
Healed; rate on residuals, if no residuals	0
6019 Ptosis, unilateral or bilateral: Pupil wholly obscured. Rate equivalent to 5/200 (1.5/60). Pupile one-half or more obscured. Rate equivalent to 20/100 (6/30). With less interference with vision. Rate as disfigurement.	
6020 Ectropion: Bilateral	20
Unilateral	10
6021 Entropion: Bilateral	20
Unilateral	10
6022 Lagophthalmos: Bilateral	20
Unilateral	10

DISEASES OF THE EYE—Continued

	Rating
6023 Eyebrows, loss of, complete, unilateral or bilateral	10
6024 Eyelashes, loss of, complete, unilateral or bilateral	10
6025 Epiphora (lacrimal duct, interference with, from any cause): Bilateral	20
Unilateral	10
6026 Neuritis, optic: Rate underlying disease, and combine impairment of visual acuity or field loss.	
6027 Cataract, traumatic: Preoperative. Rate on impairment of vision. Postoperative. Rate on impairment of vision and aphakia.	
6028 Cataract, senile, and others: Preoperative. Rate on impairment of vision. Postoperative. Rate on impairment of vision and aphakia.	
6029 Aphakia: Bilateral or unilateral	30
NOTE: The 30 percent rating prescribed for aphakia is a minimum rating to be applied to the unilateral or bilateral condition and is not to be combined with any other rating for impaired vision. When only one eye is aphakic, the eye having poorer corrected visual acuity will be rated on the basis of its acuity without correction. When both eyes are aphakic, both will be rated on corrected vision. The corrected vision of one or both aphakic eyes will be taken one step worse than the ascertained value, however, not better than 20/70 (6/21). Combined ratings for disabilities of the same eye should not exceed the amount for total loss of vision of that eye unless there is an enucleation or a serious cosmetic defect added to the total loss of vision.	
6030 Accommodation, paralysis of	20
6031 Dacryocystitis Rate as epiphora.	
6032 Eyelids, loss of portion of: Rate as disfigurement. (See diseases of the skin.)	
6033 Lens, crystalline, dislocation of: Rate as aphakia.	
6034 Pterygium: Rate for loss of vision, if any.	
6035 Keratoconus: To be evaluated on impairment of corrected visual acuity using contact lenses. NOTE: When contact lenses are medically required for keratoconus, either unilateral or bilateral, the minimum rating will be 30 percent.	

TABLE IV—TABLE FOR RATING BILATERAL BLINDNESS OR BLINDNESS COMBINED WITH HEARING LOSS WITH DICTATOR'S CODE AND 38 CFR CITATIONS

Vision one eye	Vision other eye			Plus service-connected Hearing loss				
	5/200 (1.5/60) or less	Light perception only	No light perception or anatomical loss	Total deafness one ear	10% or 20% at least one ear SC	30% at least one ear SC	40% at least one ear SC	60% or more at least one ear SC
5/200 (1.5/60) or less.	L ¹ Code LB-1 38 CFR 3.350(b)(2).	L+½ ¹ Code LB-2 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(i).	M Code MB-2 a or b 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(ii).	Add ½ step Code PB-1 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(iv).	No additional SMC.	Add a full step Code PB-3 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(vi).	Add a full step Code PB-3 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(vi).	O Code OB-1 38 CFR 3.350(e)(1)(iii)
Light perception only.	.....	M Code MB-1 a 38 CFR 3.350(c)(1)(iv).	M+½ Code MB-3 a or b 38 CFR 3.350(f)(iii).	O Code OB-2 38 CFR 3.350(e)(1)(iv).	Add ½ step Code PB-2 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(v).	Add a full step Code PB-3 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(vi).	O Code OB-2 38 CFR 3.350(e)(1)(iv).	O Code OB-1 38 CFR 3.350(e)(1)(iii)
No light perception or anatomical loss.	.....	.....	N Code NB-1 a-b or c 38 CFR 3.350(d)(4).	O Code OB-2 38 CFR 3.350(e)(1)(iv).	Add ½ step Code PB-2 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(v).	Add full step Code PB-3 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(vi).	O Code OB-2 38 CFR 3.350(e)(1)(iv).	O Code OB-1 38 CFR 3.350(e)(1)(iii)

¹ With need for aid and attendance qualifies for Subpar. m. code MB-1, b; 38 CFR 3.350(c)(1)(v).

NOTE.—(1) Any of the additional SMC payable under Dictator's Codes PB-1, PB-2, or PB-3 is not to exceed the rate payable under Subpar. O. (2) If in addition to any of the above the veteran has the service-connected loss or loss of use of an extremity, additional SMC is payable, not to exceed the rate payable under Subpar. O. See Dictator's Codes PB-4, PB-5, PB-6, and 38 CFR 3.350(f)(2)(vii) (A), (B), (C).

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1115)

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IMPAIRMENT OF CENTRAL VISUAL ACUITY

	Rat- ing
6061 Anatomical loss both eyes	⁵ 100
6062 Blindness in both eyes having only light per- ception	⁵ 100
Anatomical loss of 1 eye:	
6063 In the other eye 5/200 (1.5/60)	⁵ 100
6064 In the other eye 10/200 (3/60)	⁶ 90
6064 In the other eye 15/200 (4.5/60)	⁶ 80
6064 In the other eye 20/200 (6/60)	⁶ 70
6065 In the other eye 20/100 (6/30)	⁶ 60
6065 In the other eye 20/70 (6/21)	⁶ 60
6065 In the other eye 20/50 (6/15)	⁶ 50
6066 In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	⁶ 40
Blindness in 1 eye, having only light perception:	
6067 In the other eye 5/200 (1.5/60)	⁵ 100
6068 In the other eye 10/200 (3/60)	⁵ 90
6068 In the other eye 15/200 (4.5/60)	⁵ 80
6068 In the other eye 20/200 (6/60)	⁵ 70
6069 In the other eye 20/100 (6/30)	⁵ 60
6069 In the other eye 20/70 (6/21)	⁵ 50
6069 In the other eye 20/50 (6/15)	⁵ 40
6070 In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	⁵ 30
Vision in 1 eye 5/200 (1.5/60):	
6071 In the other eye 5/200 (1.5/60)	⁵ 100
6072 In the other eye 10/200 (3/60)	90
6072 In the other eye 15/200 (4.5/60)	80
6072 In the other eye 20/200 (6/60)	70
6073 In the other eye 20/100 (6/30)	60
6073 In the other eye 20/70 (6/21)	50
6073 In the other eye 20/50 (6/15)	40
6074 In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	30
Vision in 1 eye 10/200 (3/60):	
6075 In the other eye 10/200 (3/60)	90
6075 In the other eye 15/200 (4.5/60)	80
6075 In the other eye 20/200 (6/60)	70
6076 In the other eye 20/100 (6/30)	60

IMPAIRMENT OF CENTRAL VISUAL ACUITY—
Continued

	Rat- ing
6076 In the other eye 20/70 (6/21)	50
6076 In the other eye 20/50 (6/15)	40
6077 In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	30
Vision in 1 eye 15/200 (4.5/60):	
6075 In the other eye 15/200 (4.5/60)	80
6075 In the other eye 20/200 (6/60)	70
6076 In the other eye 20/100 (6/30)	60
6076 In the other eye 20/70 (6/21)	40
6076 In the other eye 20/50 (6/15)	30
6077 In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	20
Vision in 1 eye 20/200 (6/60):	
6075 In the other eye 20/200 (6/60)	70
6076 In the other eye 20/100 (6/30)	60
6076 In the other eye 20/70 (6/21)	40
6076 In the other eye 20/50 (6/15)	30
6077 In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	20
Vision in 1 eye 20/100 (6/30):	
6078 In the other eye 20/100 (6/30)	50
6078 In the other eye 20/70 (6/21)	30
6078 In the other eye 20/50 (6/15)	20
6079 In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	10
Vision in 1 eye 20/50 (6/15):	
6078 In the other eye 20/50 (6/15)	10
6079 In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	10
Vision in 1 eye 20/40 (6/12):	
In the other eye 20/40 (6/12)	0

⁵ Also entitled to special monthly compensation.
⁶ Add 10% if artificial eye cannot be worn; also entitled to special monthly compensation.

TABLE V—RATINGS FOR CENTRAL VISUAL ACUITY IMPAIRMENT
[With Diagnostic Code]

Vision in one eye	Vision in other eye								Light percep- tion only/ana- tomical loss
	20/40 (6/12)	20/50 (6/ 15)	20/70 (6/ 21)	20/100 (6/30)	20/200 (6/60)	15/200 (4.5/60)	10/200 (3/60)	5/200 (1.5/60)	
20/40 (6/12)	0								
20/50 (6/15)	10 (6079)	10 (6078)							
20/70 (6/21)	10 (6079)	20 (6078)	30 (6078)						
20/100 (6/30)	10 (6079)	20 (6078)	30 (6078)	50 (6078)					
20/200 (6/60)	20 (6077)	30 (6076)	40 (6076)	60 (6076)	70 (6075)				
15/200 (4.5/60)	20 (6077)	30 (6076)	40 (6076)	60 (6076)	70 (6075)	80 (6075)			
10/200 (3/60)	30 (6077)	40 (6076)	50 (6076)	60 (6076)	70 (6075)	80 (6075)	90 (6075)		
5/200 (1.5/60)	30 (6074)	40 (6073)	50 (6073)	60 (6073)	70 (6072)	80 (6072)	90 (6072)	⁵ 100 (6071)	
Light per- ception only	⁵ 30	⁵ 40	⁵ 50	⁵ 60	⁵ 70	⁵ 80	⁵ 90	⁵ 100	⁵ 100

TABLE V—RATINGS FOR CENTRAL VISUAL ACUITY IMPAIRMENT—Continued
[With Diagnostic Code]

Vision in one eye	Vision in other eye								
	20/40 (6/12)	20/50 (6/15)	20/70 (6/21)	20/100 (6/30)	20/200 (6/60)	15/200 (4.5/60)	10/200 (3/60)	5/200 (1.5/60)	Light perception only/anatomical loss
	(6070)	(6069)	(6069)	(6069)	(6068)	(6068)	(6068)	(6067)	(6062)
Anatomical loss of one eye	⁶ 40 (6066)	⁶ 50 (6065)	⁶ 60 (6065)	⁶ 60 (6065)	⁶ 70 (6064)	⁶ 80 (6064)	⁶ 90 (6064)	⁵ 100 (6063)	⁵ 100 (6061)

⁵Also entitled to special monthly compensation.

⁶Add 10 percent if artificial eye cannot be worn; also entitled to special monthly compensation.

RATINGS FOR IMPAIRMENT OF FIELD VISION

	Rating
6080 Field vision, impairment of:	
Homonymous hemianopsia	30
Field, visual, loss of temporal half:	
Bilateral	30
Unilateral	10
Or rate as 20/70 (6/21).	
Field, visual, loss of nasal half:	
Bilateral	20
Unilateral	10
Or rate as 20/50 (6/15).	
Field, visual, concentric contraction of:	
To 5°:	
Bilateral	100
Unilateral	30
Or rate as 5/200 (1.5/60).	
To 15° but not to 5°:	
Bilateral	70
Unilateral	20
Or rate as 20/200 (6/60).	
To 30° but not to 15°:	
Bilateral	50
Unilateral	10
Or rate as 20/100 (6/30).	
To 45° but not to 30°:	
Bilateral	30
Unilateral	10
Or rate as 20/70 (6/21):	
To 60° but not to 45°:	
Bilateral	20
Unilateral	10
Or rate as 20/50 (6/15).	
Note (1): Correct diagnosis reflecting disease or injury should be cited..	
Note (2): Demonstrable pathology commensurate with the functional loss will be required. The concentric contraction ratings require contraction within the stated degrees, temporally; the nasal contraction may be less. The alternative ratings are to be employed when there is ratable defect of visual acuity, or a different impairment of the visual field in the other eye. Concentric contraction resulting from demonstrable pathology to 5 degrees or less will be considered on a parity with reduction of central visual acuity to 5/200 (1.5/60) or less for all purposes including entitlement under § 3.350(b)(2) of this chapter; not however, for the purpose of § 3.350(a) of this chapter. Entitlement on account of blindness requiring regular aid and attendance, § 3.350(c) of this chapter, will continue to be determined on the facts in the individual case..	
6081 Scotoma, pathological, unilateral:	

RATINGS FOR IMPAIRMENT OF FIELD VISION—Continued

	Rating
Large or centrally located, minimum	10
NOTE: Rate on loss of central visual acuity or impairment of field vision. Do not combine with any other rating for visual impairment.	

RATINGS FOR IMPAIRMENT OF MUSCLE FUNCTION [6090 Diplopia (double vision)]

Degree of diplopia	Equivalent visual acuity
(a) Central 20°	5/200
(b) 21° to 30°:	
(1) Down	15/200
(2) Lateral	20/100
(3) Up	20/70
(c) 31° to 40°:	
(1) Down	20/200
(2) Lateral	20/70
(3) Up	20/40
Note: (1) Correct diagnosis reflecting disease or injury should be cited..	
Note: (2) The above ratings will be applied to only one eye. Ratings will not be applied for both diplopia and decreased visual acuity or field of vision in the same eye. When diplopia is present and there is also ratable impairment of visual acuity or field of vision of both eyes the above diplopia ratings will be applied to the poorer eye while the better eye is rated according to the best corrected visual acuity or visual field..	
Note: (3) When the diplopia field extends beyond more than one quadrant or more than one range of degrees, the evaluation for diplopia will be based on the quadrant and degree range that provide the highest evaluation..	
Note: (4) When diplopia exists in two individual and separate areas of the same eye, the equivalent visual acuity will be taken one step worse, but no worse than 5/200..	
6091 Symblepharon..	
Rate as limited muscle function, diagnostic code 6090..	
6092 Diplopia, due to limited muscle function..	
Rate as diagnostic code 6090..	

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[29 FR 6718, May 22, 1964, as amended at 34 FR 5062, Mar. 11, 1969; 40 FR 42537, Sept. 15, 1975; 41 FR 11297, Mar. 18, 1976; 43 FR 45354, Oct. 2, 1978; 51 FR 6411, Feb. 24, 1986; 53 FR 30264, Aug. 11, 1988; 53 FR 50955, Dec. 19, 1988; 57 FR 24364, June 9, 1992]

IMPAIRMENT OF AUDITORY ACUITY

§ 4.85 Evaluation of hearing impairment.

(a) An examination for hearing impairment for VA purposes must be conducted by a state-licensed audiologist and must include a controlled speech discrimination test (Maryland CNC) and a puretone audiometry test. Examinations will be conducted without the use of hearing aids.

(b) Table VI, "Numeric Designation of Hearing Impairment Based on Puretone Threshold Average and Speech Discrimination," is used to determine a Roman numeral designation (I through XI) for hearing impairment based on a combination of the percent of speech discrimination (horizontal rows) and the puretone threshold average (vertical columns). The Roman numeral designation is located at the point where the percentage of speech discrimination and puretone threshold average intersect.

(c) Table VIa, "Numeric Designation of Hearing Impairment Based Only on Puretone Threshold Average," is used to determine a Roman numeral designation (I through XI) for hearing impairment based only on the puretone threshold average. Table VIa will be used when the examiner certifies that

use of the speech discrimination test is not appropriate because of language difficulties, inconsistent speech discrimination scores, etc., or when indicated under the provisions of § 4.86.

(d) "Puretone threshold average," as used in Tables VI and VIa, is the sum of the puretone thresholds at 1000, 2000, 3000 and 4000 Hertz, divided by four. This average is used in all cases (including those in § 4.86) to determine the Roman numeral designation for hearing impairment from Table VI or VIa.

(e) Table VII, "Percentage Evaluations for Hearing Impairment," is used to determine the percentage evaluation by combining the Roman numeral designations for hearing impairment of each ear. The horizontal rows represent the ear having the better hearing and the vertical columns the ear having the poorer hearing. The percentage evaluation is located at the point where the row and column intersect.

(f) If impaired hearing is service-connected in only one ear, in order to determine the percentage evaluation from Table VII, the non-service-connected ear will be assigned a Roman Numeral designation for hearing impairment of I, subject to the provisions of § 3.383 of this chapter.

(g) When evaluating any claim for impaired hearing, refer to § 3.350 of this chapter to determine whether the veteran may be entitled to special monthly compensation due either to deafness, or to deafness in combination with other specified disabilities.

(h) *Numeric tables VI, VIa*, and VII.*